

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A portable element comprising:

authorization apparatus operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;

at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element,

wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit varies between a maximum use limit and a minimum use limit and includes a range of non-zero use limits determined as a monotonically ~~is a strictly~~ decreasing function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since a predetermined time; and

a distance from a specified location.

Claim 16 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with a predefined function of at least two of the authorization parameters.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises a plurality of authorized persons each associated with an authorization profile, and

the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by each of the plurality of authorized persons in accordance with the authorization profile.

Claim 19 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises exactly one authorized person associated with an authorization profile, and

the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by the one authorized person in accordance with the authorization profile.

Claim 20 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the portable element comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment.

Claim 21 (original): A portable element according to claim 20 and wherein the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 22 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined transaction limit.

Claim 23 (original): A portable element according to claim 22 and wherein the predetermined transaction limit comprises a predetermined monetary limit.

Claim 24 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization parameters are based, at least in part, on authorization parameter defining information, and also comprising:

authorization input apparatus operative to receive the authorization parameter defining information.

Claim 25 (original): A portable element according to claim 24 and wherein the authorization input apparatus comprises input authentication apparatus operative

to authenticate the received authorization parameter defining information and to reject non-authentic received information.

Claim 26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method for use with a portable element, the method comprising:

providing a portable element;

authorizing use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;

at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element,

wherein the authorizing comprises authorizing use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit varies between a maximum use limit and a minimum use limit and includes a range of non-zero use limits determined as a monotonically ~~is a strictly~~ decreasing function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since a predetermined time; and

a distance from a specified location.

Claims 28 - 41 (cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A portable device comprising:

input apparatus operative to receive a user-identifying input and at least one user selectable use limitation from a user of the portable device;

a control user identity unit operative to store information identifying a control user;

user determination apparatus operative to determine whether the user is an authentic control user based, at least in part, on the user-identifying input and on the information stored in the control user identity unit; and

use limit apparatus operative to limit use of the portable device in accordance with the at least one user selectable use limitation if the user is determined to be an authentic control user by the user determination apparatus,

wherein the use limitation comprises at least one of the following:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;

at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable device, and

the use limit apparatus is operative to limit use of the portable device up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit varies between a maximum use limit and a minimum use limit and includes a range of non-zero use limits determined as a monotonically ~~is a strictly~~ decreasing function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since a predetermined time; and

a distance from a specified location.

Claims 43 - 45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the portable device comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment, and

the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input apparatus comprises a keyboard.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a voice input device.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a biometric sensor.

Claim 50 (new): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the monotonically decreasing function comprises a non-linear function.

Claim 51 (new): A portable element according to claim 50 and wherein the non-linear function comprises an inverse-square function.

Claim 52 (new): A method according to claim 27 and wherein the monotonically decreasing function comprises a non-linear function.

Claim 53 (new): A method according to claim 52 and wherein the non-linear function comprises an inverse-square function.

Claim 54 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the monotonically decreasing function comprises a non-linear function.

Claim 55 (new): A portable device according to claim 54 and wherein the non-linear function comprises an inverse-square function.